

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny, cooler 74/54 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 76/59 C14

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020 • \$3.50

Wave of rage and anguish sweeps U.S. cities

At time of crisis,
a keen search for
leaders to heal

BY MARC FISHER

As protests quickly flipped from peaceful to fiery in more than two dozen U.S. cities, President Trump said little Saturday about the frustrations that drove thousands of people to crowd into downtown streets in the middle of a pandemic. Instead, the president defaulted to his usual style of leadership: tearing people down and talking tough.

“Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis will never be mistaken for the late, great General Douglas MacArthur [sic] or great fighter General George Patton,” Trump tweeted Saturday of the Democrat whose city was in flames. “How come all of these places that defend so poorly are run by Liberal Democrats? Get tough and fight (and arrest the bad ones). STRENGTH!”

Trump blasted demonstrators who had confronted Secret Service agents outside the White House as “professionally managed so-called ‘protesters’” who “were just there to cause trouble.” And he seemed to savor a confrontation.

SEE LEADERSHIP ON A14

‘For generations
our voices have
not been heard’

BY SHEILA REGAN,
ROBERT KLEMKO
AND JENNA JOHNSON

MINNEAPOLIS — The protests started peacefully Tuesday night, as hundreds marched to the 3rd Precinct police headquarters to demand accountability for the officer who jammed his knee into George Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes as he gasped for breath.

Tensions quickly escalated. By the second night, people had looted nearby businesses and set them on fire.

By the third night of protests, the police precinct was also on fire. By the fourth, dozens of buildings were set ablaze, and anger once directed just at the police exploded into all-out mayhem.

This Midwestern city is now consumed by fear and unease triggered by the anarchy playing out after dark in certain neighborhoods — and worries that the

SEE TENSIONS ON A13



ERIC THAYER/REUTERS



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST



GENE J. PUSKAR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP: A fire burns outside the White House on Saturday, where at least 1,000 people faced off with police officers. Clashes in the District erupted for the second day, hours after President Trump made inflammatory statements on Twitter about the unrest there. Demonstrations have broken out in many cities in response to the death of George Floyd. BOTTOM LEFT: A protest in Manhattan. BOTTOM RIGHT: A police vehicle burns in Pittsburgh.

Guard deployed as clashes persist in D.C.; Bowser lashes out at Trump

BY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT,
MICHAEL E. MILLER,
HANNAH NATANSON
AND PETER JAMISON

Crowds protesting the killing of George Floyd clashed with U.S. Secret Service and Park Police officers in the nation’s capital

Saturday afternoon and evening, the second outburst of violent confrontations in less than 24 hours between federal law enforcement and activists decrying police brutality.

By nightfall, nearly 1,000 protesters were circling the perimeter of the White House grounds,

which was fortified with law enforcement vehicles, metal barriers and rows of armored Secret Service, D.C. police and U.S. Park Police.

Sweating, packed closely together and shouting through masks worn to protect themselves from the deadly coronavirus

still consuming the Washington region, the protesters launched fireworks and threw bottles at the officers, who swung batons and fired pepper-spray projectiles to push them back. As the sun began to set, D.C. National Guard trucks rumbled through

SEE D.C. ON A10

PROTESTS GROW OVER KILLING

Fearing night of unrest,
states summon Guard

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER,
COLBY ITKOWITZ
AND MERYL KORNFELD

The United States edged closer to nationwide upheaval on Saturday as protests gained force from coast to coast, and as authorities steel themselves for another night of unrest over the death of George Floyd.

The killing of the 46-year-old black man in police custody has ignited furor as Americans marked the grim milestone of 100,000 lives lost to the novel coronavirus. Video of the fatal encounter in Minneapolis brought crowds rushing back to the streets after weeks of stay-at-home restrictions, in a return marked by spasms of violence that further frayed the social fabric of a country beset by twin health and economic emergencies.

The spiraling street protests recalled recent activism by the Black Lives Matter movement, while also evoking signature moments in the turbulent history of racial and economic struggle, from the convulsions of 1968 to the riots that broke out in Los Angeles in response to the April 1992 acquittal of the officers charged in the beating of Rodney King. Ongoing eruptions had yet to reach these levels, as mayors and governors beseeched their citizens to stay calm, while President Trump urged authorities to “get tougher.”

“People are fighting for their lives,” said Rashad Robinson, the president of the racial justice group Color of Change.

At the epicenter of the national anguish, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) mobilized his state’s entire National Guard for the first time. Bracing for a fifth night of violence and riots, he warned that the destruction of past nights could be “dwarfed” by events on Saturday night.

SEE PROTESTS ON A8

More coverage

Criminal charges: Prosecutors face hurdles in cases against officers. **A9**

Violence: Minn. officials blame outsiders, offer little evidence. **A12**

Minneapolis unrest: White House offers active-duty soldiers. **A14**

Sally Jenkins: Colin Kaepernick’s protest still reverberates. **D1**

More coverage

Reopening: Black pastors in St. Louis are preaching caution. **A3**

Tourism: Europe faces an unusual summer without Americans. **A20**

Outlook: Eateries are barely making it. Delivery apps aren’t helping. **B1**

Virus: Testing rates in the District are far below capacity. **C1**

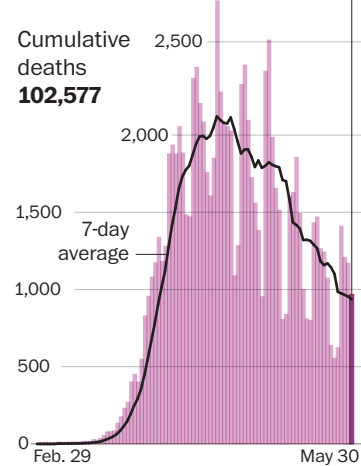
Sports: Virus adds new challenges to reach at-risk youths. **D1**

Arts & Style: 20 summer reads, for while you’re staying home. **E1**

Business: The new rules of retirement. **G1**

New deaths in the U.S., by day

As of 8 p.m.



VOICES FROM THE PANDEMIC

‘It was me.
I know it was me.’

Francene Bailey, on passing the
coronavirus to her mother

AS TOLD TO ELI SASLOW

They keep telling me it’s not my fault, and I’d give anything to believe that. The doctor called after my mom went to the hospital and said: “Don’t blame yourself. You didn’t do anything wrong.”

An oral history of covid-19 and those affected.

The pastor said basically the same thing at her funeral. “Let it go. You had nothing to do with this.” I know they’re trying to make me feel better, but it’s a lie. I had everything to do with it. This virus doesn’t just appear in your body out of nowhere. It has to pass from one person to the next. It has to come from somebody, and this time I know it came from me.

I keep thinking: What if I’d stopped going to work when the first people started to get sick? What if I didn’t live with my mom? What if I’d stayed

upstairs in my room like I’d been doing all week? What if I’d kept my mask on? What if I’d turned away when she reached out to hug me? We only had close contact that one time, and it barely lasted a few minutes, but that was all it took. A week later she was in the hospital. Ten days after that she was gone. That’s the timeline I have to live with, and it points right back to me. I got sick and then she got sick. I lived and she died. How am I supposed to let go of that?

The thing is, I was trying so hard to be careful from the very beginning. It’s not like I was one of those people who didn’t pay attention. I work at a nursing home. I knew how fast this virus could spread. As soon as a few of the residents started spiking fevers in March, I went online to buy extra masks. We didn’t have the right protective supplies, and you can’t social distance

SEE VOICES ON A5



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The SpaceX Falcon 9 takes off from the Kennedy Space Center with two NASA astronauts bound for the International Space Station.

SpaceX takes historic flight headed for space station

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
AND JACOB BOGAGE

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. — With the country wracked by the coronavirus and racial strife, the United States opened a new chapter in space exploration Saturday when a SpaceX rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, carrying two astronauts to orbit from American soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

It was a historic moment for SpaceX, which became the first private corporation to launch people into orbit, and for NASA, which has struggled to regain its footing after retiring the space shuttle in 2011, leaving the U.S. no option but to rely on Russia to ferry its astronauts to space for as much as \$90 million a seat.

But it also comes at the end of a historic and tragic week in America. Fatalities from the coronavirus pandemic passed 100,000 in recent days and sometimes-violent protests and looting erupted overnight in major cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., over the death of

SEE SPACE ON A18

APARTMENTS.....INSERT
ARTS.....E1
BUSINESS.....G1

CLASSIFIEDS.....G15
COMICS.....INSERT
EDITORIALS/LETTERS.....A21

LOTTERIES.....C3
OUTLOOK.....B1
OBITUARIES.....C7

STOCKS.....G11
TRAVEL.....E15
WORLD NEWS.....A24

SAVE
SUNDAY COUPON INSERTS

\$272

CONTENT © 2020
The Washington Post / Year 143, No. 178

0 70628 27100 7